

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/697,154	PERKINS, FREDERICK M.
	Examiner Carlos Lugo	Art Unit 3676

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Carlos Lugo. (3) ____.
 (2) Lawrence Laubscher. (4) ____.

Date of Interview: 24 February 2006.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
 c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.
 If Yes, brief description: ____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Furlong (US 6709030), Varney (US 462,183) and Johansson (US 6113160).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: In a personal interview with Mr. Laubscher, the previous rejection to claims 1,3 and 4 was discussed. First, the applicant's representative explain and clarify the limitation of the tip of the latch having a convex and curved shape, as seen in figure 25 of the current drawings. Also, the applicant proposes an amendment to add the limitations previously presented in claim 9, regarding the use of seals to seal the shaft openings in the tubular opening. A copy of the propose amendment is attached to this form.

In a personal interview with Mr. Laubscher, the previous rejection to claims 1,3 and 4 was discussed. First, the applicant's representative explain and clarify the limitation of the tip of the latch having a convex and curved shape, as seen in figure 25 of the current drawings. Also, the applicant proposes an amendment to add the limitations previously presented in claim 9, regarding the use of seals to seal the shaft openings in the tubular opening.

In a personal interview with Mr. Laubscher, the previous rejection to claims 1,3 and 4 was discussed. First, the applicant's representative explain and clarify the limitation of the tip of the latch having a convex and curved shape, as seen in figure 25 of the current drawings. Also, the applicant proposes an amendment to add the limitations previously presented in claim 9, regarding the use of seals to seal the shaft openings in the tubular opening.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: :
Frederick M. Perkins : Group Art Unit 3676
Serial No. 10/697,154 :
Filed: 10/31/2003 : Examiner Carlos Lugo
For: SLAM LATCH AND STRIKE :
ASSEMBLY : Docket No. 19529

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 7, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendment of the Specification begin on Page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on Page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments being on Page ___ of this paper.

(a) lock nut means threadably connected with said body member beneath the first support member, thereby to lock said body member to the first support member.

9. (previously amended) A slam latch and strike assembly as defined in claim 5, and further including a pivot shaft non-rotatably connected with said release handle, said rack and pinion means including a pinion gear non-rotatably connected with said pivot shaft for angular displacement with said release handle, and O-ring seal means mounted on said pivot shaft, thereby to seal the assembly against leakage.

10. (previously amended) A slam latch and strike assembly as defined in claim 8, and further including an annular gasket arranged concentrically about said body, said gasket being compressed between said body annular flange portion and the adjacent surface of the first support member.

11. (original claim) A slam latch and strike assembly as defined in claim 5, and further wherein said rack and pinion means includes a rack member, said latch member being connected for sliding movement relative to said rack member in the retracted direction against the biasing force of said spring means.

12. (currently amended) A slam latch member as defined in claim 5, wherein said body, latch member, handle member, ~~rack~~, rack and strike are formed from a corrosion-resistant synthetic plastic material.

- (f) said latch member first end portion and said strike member having adjacent generally parallel surfaces each provided with a series of cooperating ratcheting latch teeth and strike teeth, respectively,
 - (1) said latch teeth and said strike teeth being in engagement when said latch is in said extended position and said support members are in said relatively closed position;
 - (2) the ratcheting configuration of said latch teeth and said strike teeth being such as to permit movement of said support members toward said closed position, but to prevent movement of said support members toward said open position;
 - (3) said latch teeth and said strike teeth, when in the engaged condition, having transverse tips contained in vertically spaced horizontal planes, respectively, all of said tips being curved and convex, thereby to compensate for slight misalignment between said latch and strike members;
- (g) said body wall transverse opening comprising an axially extending slot contained in the bottom end of said body member; and further including an end plate connected with said body member to close said body member bottom end.

6. Cancelled

7. (previously amended} A slam latch and strike assembly as defined in claim 5, wherein said end plate contains guide means for guiding said latch member during the displacement thereof between said extended and retracted positions relative to said body member.

8. (previously amended) A slam latch and strike assembly as defined in claim 5, wherein the upper end of said body member includes an outwardly extending external annular flange portion adapted for seated engagement with the adjacent surface of the first support member when said body member is mounted in a corresponding opening contained therein, said body member being externally threaded; and further including:

5. (previously amended) A slam latch and strike assembly for releasably connecting together two adjacent support members that are relatively displaceable between a generally planar closed position and a relatively laterally displaced open position, comprising:

- (a) a generally tubular body adapted for connection with a first one of said support members, said body having a vertical longitudinal axis and a horizontal divider wall defining upper and lower chambers in said body, said body having at its lower end a wall portion containing a transverse opening communicating with said lower chamber;
- (b) a latch member mounted in said wall opening for axial displacement between retracted and extended positions relative to said body, said latch member including a first end portion that extends from said housing when said latch member is in said extended position;
- (c) spring means biasing said latch member toward said extended position relative to said body;
- (d) release means for displacing said latch toward said retracted position relative to said body, said release means including:
 - (1) a release handle pivotally connected with said body for pivotal displacement about an axis normal to the plane that contains the longitudinal axes of said body and said latch member, said handle being displaceable between a locked position within said body upper chamber and a released position extending from said body chamber; and
 - (2) rack and pinion gear means connecting said latch member with said handle for displacement between said extended and retracted positions relative to said body when said handle is in said locked and released positions, respectively ;
- (e) a strike member adapted for connection with a second one of said support members at a location adjacent said latch first end when said latch member is in said extended position, said strike member having a longitudinal axis generally parallel with said body longitudinal axis;

- (e) a strike member adapted for connection with a second one of said support members at a location adjacent said latch first end when said latch member is in said extended position, said strike member having a longitudinal axis generally parallel with said body longitudinal axis;
- (f) said latch member first end portion and said strike member having adjacent generally parallel surfaces each provided with a series of cooperating ratcheting latch teeth and strike teeth, respectively,
 - (1) said latch teeth and said strike teeth being in engagement when said latch is in said extended position and said support members are in said relatively closed position;
 - (2) the ratcheting configuration of said latch teeth and said strike teeth being such as to permit movement of said support members toward said closed position, but to prevent movement of said support members toward said open position;
 - (3) said latch teeth and said strike teeth, when in the engaged condition, having transverse tips contained in vertically spaced horizontal planes, respectively, all of said tips of said latch teeth being curved and convex, thereby to compensate for slight misalignment between said latch and strike members.

2. Cancelled.

3. (previously amended) A slam latch and strike assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said strike member is cylindrical and has a circular cross-sectional configuration, the tips of said strike teeth being circular, said strike member containing a longitudinal bore for receiving a fastening member.

4. (twice amended) A slam latch and strike assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said strike member has a generally polygonal cross-sectional configuration, and the tips of said strike teeth are arcuate and convex.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (twice amended). A slam latch and strike assembly for releasably connecting together two adjacent support members that are relatively displaceable between a generally planar closed position and a relatively laterally displaced open position, comprising:

- (a) a generally tubular body adapted for connection with a first one of said support members, said body having a vertical longitudinal axis and a horizontal divider wall defining upper and lower chambers in said body, said body having at its lower end a wall portion containing a transverse opening communicating with said lower chamber;
- (b) a latch member mounted in said wall opening for axial displacement between retracted and extended positions relative to said body, said latch member including a first end portion that extends from said housing when said latch member is in said extended position;
- (c) spring means biasing said latch member toward said extended position relative to said body;
- (d) release means for displacing said latch toward said retracted position relative to said body[;] and said release means comprising:
 - (1) a handle member arranged in said upper chamber above said divider wall;
 - (2) pivot means connecting said handle for pivotal movement relative to said tubular body, said pivot means including a pivot shaft extending through at least one shaft opening in said tubular body;
 - (3) rack and pinion means arranged in said lower chamber below said divider wall, said rack and pinion means being operable by said pivot shaft to displace said latch member between its retracted and extended positions; and
 - (4) seal means sealing said shaft opening; and

Abstract

A slam latch and strike assembly for latching together a pair of generally parallel relatively laterally displaceable support members, including a body adapted for connection with one of the support members, a latch member mounted for axial displacement between extended and retracted positions in a transverse opening contained in the body member, a spring biasing the latch member toward the extended position, and a strike member mounted on the other support member adjacent the free end of the latch member when the latch member is in the extended position, the strike and latch members carrying sets of strike teeth and latch teeth that are normally in engagement when the latch is in its extended position, the tips and valleys of the teeth of at least one of the latch and strike teeth sets having curved and convex transverse profiles, thereby to compensate for minor misalignment between the strike and latch members.

Appln. Serial No. 10/697,154
Amendment dated 2/24/06
Reply to Office action of 12/07/2005

Amendment of the Specification

Present the amended Abstract on a separate page, as follows:

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

INSERT REMARKS

Favorable action is courteously solicited.

Please charge any Government fees resulting from the entry of this Amendment to our
Account No. 12-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

2006

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